

Remarks

Claims 18-22 and 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 23 have been canceled. New claim 25 has been added. Support for claim 25 may be found, for example, in Figure 5 (b-f) of the original instant application.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 18-22 and 24 is rejected under this section for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants have amended the claims such that the nucleotide sequence relates to nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO:5, instead of an amino acid sequence. Applicants have added claim 25 in light of the Examiner's reading of claim 24 as a nucleic acid sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:6.

It submitted that this rejection has been overcome and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under USC §101

Claims 18-22 and 24 are rejected under this section as claiming non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been amended to recite "isolated nucleotide sequence" to ensure that the claims do not relate to products of nature.

It submitted that this rejection has been overcome and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicants invite her to contact the undersigned at 908.231.4658.

Respectfully submitted,


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